(iv) To provide a range of marketing and distribution services to Indian exporters.

Talks between PM and DG of Gatt

331. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :
SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prme Minister during this talks with Director-General of GATT Mr. Peter Sutherland expressed India's concern and differences over Draft Final Act ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what was the reaction of Director-General of GATT thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) DG, GATT made a counrtesy call on the Prime Minister, PM was apprised of the clarifications provided by DG, GATT on areas of concern to India on agriculture. PM emphasized, however, that these were not the only concerns that India had, and sought the cooperation of DG, GATT in addressing issues of concern to India. DG, GATT promised to do his best.

332. [*Transferred to 16th December,* 1993]

Meetings by Chief Secretary at A.P. Government with Officials of Tobacco Board

333. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Chief Secretary, Government of Andhra Pradesh convened several meetings of various interest groups, as well as the officials of Tobacco Board during September/October, 1993 ;

(a) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) who were the participants and what was the agenda ; and

(d) what are the decisions that were taken and in what manner they are proposed to be implemented.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The meetings were convened in September 1993, with the State Government officials, the officials of Tobacco Board, the representatives of growers from the black soil areas of Andhra Pradesh and the representatives of tobacco trade and industry. The main issue was whether in the black soil areas where no crop had been authorised by the Tobacco Boaord, some reasonable quantity could be allowed having regard to the demand for the kind of tobaccos grown in this area. After these meetings the Tobacco Board finally authorised 15.18 million kgs. of tobacco to be cultivated in the specified region for the year 1993-94.

World Trends in F.C.V. Tobacco

334. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the World scenario for Flue Cured Virginia, (F.C.V.) tobacco production, demand and supply position for 1993-94 and 1994-95 ; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government and Tobacco Board in view of these developments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHR KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) The World FCV tobacco production in 1993 is estimated at 5,389 M.kgs as against 5,218 M.kgs in 1992 and 4,483 M.kgs in 1991.